LAND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE KHANDVALA RULERS OF DARBHANGA (FROM 1574 TO 1880)

BY

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In its Maharaja Kameshwar Singh memorial volume the Bihar Research Society has published an article on the history of land revenue administration of the Darbhanga Raj. It contains some interesting information no doubt, but the peculiar nature of the administration has not been adequately pointed out. In the same issue of the Journal I contributed an article on the origin and development of the Darbhanga Raj under the Khandvalas. It has been shown therein that the founder of the House had been appointed only as a revenue officer of Sarkar Tirhut. My further study on the subject has, however, made it necessary for me to modify some of my conclusions since then.

The entire history of Land Revenue administration of the Raj covering a period of roughly four hundred years (1574 to 1952) may be divided into the following periods—

(i) Chaudhrai and Qanungoi (1574-1665)
(ii) Sadar Zamindari or Feudal Chieftain ship (1665-1760)
(iii) Rāj Revenue administration under the E.I. Company's rule (1769-1860)
(iv) Revenue management under the Court of Wards (1860-1879)
(v) Revenue management in the Post-Ward's period.*

Chaudhrai and Qanungoi

M.M. Mahesh Thakur, the founder of the House, received the offices of *Chaudhari* and *Qanungo* of Sarkar Tirhut from emperor Akbar. The two offices continued to be held by his descendants till the time of Mahinath Thakur, who received the Zamindari of a very extensive area from emperor Aurangzeb. During the period therefore M.M. Mahesh Thakur and his descendants performed the function of a public officer and

* Due to lack of adequate materials in my possession regarding this phase of revenue administration I propose to discuss the subject in a separate article later on.

as such enjoyed certain privileges. But before discussing their functions and emoluments we must note certain peculiarities in the nature of their appointment. According to our exisiting knowledge of the Mughal Revenue administration *Chaudharies* were appointed from amongst local influential Zamindars. Both *Chaudhari* and *Qanungo* were officers of the *Paragana* level. The two offices were held by two different persons. It is true that in certain cases there were two or more *Chaudharies* in one and the same *Paragana*. But our authorities are silent as to the existence of *Sadar Chaudhari* or *Sadar Qanungo.*[1] In the case of the Darbhanga Raj, however, all the available *Farmans* and other relevant documents clearly mention that Mahesh Thakur and his descendants were appointed *Sadar Chaudhari* and *Sadar Qanungo* of not one or two *Paraganas* but of the entire *Sarkar* of Tirhut.[2] All this suggests that there might have been *Chaudhari* and *Qanungo* at *Sarkar* level also. In the mode of payment for their services also we notice the difference. Unlike the usual practice of paying to these officers certain percentage on the collection of revenue as their commission or setting apart certain tracts of land set apart to remunerate their services we find in the imperial *farman* granted to Gopal Thakur that in return of his prescribed services he was to realise from *ryots* one rupee per *bigha* as the Chaudhari and one fourth of a rupee per *bigha* as the *Qanungo*. The payment was perhaps made on the area under cultivation, for in the enumeration of *Chaudhari's* several duties great emphasis is laid on the extension and improvement of cultivation. The following occurs in the *Farman* granted to Gopal Thakur regarding his duties and emoloments—

"It is expected out of his (sense of) profuse honesty and ability that he will put forth his best endeavours in looking after the interests of Dewani and in protecting the lives of *ryots* and increasing their prosperity. And if he duly performs the said duties, he should realise from the *ryots* the *Rusum Chaudhrai* at one *tanka* per bigha and Rusum

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1 Reginal Hand in his *Early English Administration in Bihar*, published in 1894, makes a mention of *Mufussal* and *Sadar Qanungoes* and says, at page 53, that "the *Sadar Canungoes* did for a Province what the *Mufussal Canungoes* did for a *paragana*". But from the Board of Revenue proceeding, which will be discussed at a later stage, it appears that *Sadar Qanungo* was a *Sarkar* level officers.

2 The Farman given to Gopal Thakur by emperor Akber mentions "that the *Chaudhrai* and *Qanungoi* of the entire above mentioned *Sarkar*—(Tirhut) be restored to the said Gopal Das......The English translation of this farman is quoted in exten so in the History of Darbhanga Raj, at page 16.

Qanungoi at one-fourth *tanka* per bigha, totalling $1\frac{1}{4}$ tankas per bigha".[3]

We do not possess much information about the activities of the early incumbents to the post in respect of revenue administration. But because they held both the posts of *Chaudhari* and *Qanungo* they might have, according to the prevailing system, looked after both assessment and collection of land revenues. Since the two posts continued to be held by the members of this House they in course of time appear to have acquired great efficiency. Unlike the traditions of unsettled affairs of things during the regimes of Mahesh Thakur[4] and his sons Gopal[5] and Parmanand[6] we have documentary evidences of creditable performances on the part of later incumbents in the form of farmans making *nankar* grants[7] to them. Thus in a *parawana* of 1634 Narayan Thakur is praised for his services in settling the affairs of Bharwara *Paragana*. Later in 1641 he received the *nankar* grant of village Bijali in *Paragana* Berai. Likewise Sundar Thakur got a similar grant of village Malangia in *Paragana* Jerail. These *inamat* villages must have claimed greater attention on the part of their new owners. Although we have not definite information as to how these *nankar* villages were administered it may reasonably be assumed that their acquisition might have necessitated a regular body of retainers and their position and experience as *Chaudhari* and *Qanungo* of the *Sarkar* would have greatly helped them in managing their *nankars* efficiently.

A pernicious practice, discussed below, might have, to a certain extent, affected the efficient administration of *Chaudhrai* and *Qanungoi*. Although the appointments to these posts were made by imperial orders, and royal confirmation was necessary in case of every succession to the posts the Hindu law of inheritance brought so many persons as co-heirs

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3 *Ibid.*

4 Mahesh Thakur is said to have relinquished the post in sheer disgust.

5 Gopal Thakur had protracted engagement with Bharajatiya Rajputs. His restoration to the post is clear from the contents of the *farman* referred to above.

6 Parmanand Thakur is said to have been confined to jail in Delhi owing to arrears of revenue.

7 According Regional Hand *nankars* were the real estates of the Zamindar and of which he was the proprietor. These lands later came to be known as *Zerait* or *Khas Kakamar* lands.

to one and the same post.[8] The result was that although the appointment was in the name of one person at one time it was in fact held jointly by all the co-heirs. The anomaly of such a situation hardly needs any amplification. By the third generation we find, in the present instance, a number of persons holding shares in the proceeds of *Chaudhrai.* The *Mahazarnamah*[9] of Sundar Thakur gives us an account of what happened to *Chaudhrai* and *Qanungoi* after Mahesh Thakur. According to this account Mahesh Thakur had four sons—Gopal, Achyuta, Parmanand and Subhankar. The first three were own brothers while the fourth, Subhankar, was their step-brother. After the death of Achyuta Thakur, who left behind no male issue, there occured a separation in the family. The three living brothers divided the *Chaudhrai* and *Qanungoi* among themselves, each possessing one-third share. Subhankar Thakur had sons from all his three wives who together continued to hold their father's one-third share. Later on, however, the sons of the first and third wives of Subhankar Thakur sold their shares in the name of Narain and Sundar, sons of his second wife, on account of their inability to pay Government revenues.

Gopal and Parmanand perhaps continued to live jointly. So on the death of Parmanand, who died issueless, his share went into the hands of Hemangad, the son of Gopal. Thus Hemangad Thakur possessed two-thirds share of *Chaudhrai* and *Qanungoi.* He had three sons—Lakshman, Ratidhar and Yogeshwar. In 1060 A. H. they together with Narain and Sundar Thakur took the *Qabuliat* for the revenue of Sarkar Tirhut, but incurred a heavy loss. The Government dues amounted to Rs. 31,500. Out of this sum the sons of Hemangad were required to pay, according to their share, a sum of Rs. 21,000. They could not make the payment and sold their share of *Chaudhrai* and *Qanungoi* to Sundar Thakur, who deposited the required amount in the government treasury on their behalf.

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8 While writing History of Darbhanga Raj I was of opinion that public offices like *Chaudhrai* and *Qanungoi* could not be held as property, a d as such not divisible among the heirs of the incumbents. But my further studies on the subject have led me to revise my opinion. For details on the point one may look up the Journal of Royal Asiatic Society for 1888, page 516 and also Irfan Habib's Agrarian System of Mughal India, pp. 288-292.

I have s me more positive evidences on the point which I propose to discuss at a later stage in this paper.

9 English translation quoted in history of Darbhanga Raj, pp. 7-8.

Now that the entire *Sadar Chaudhrai* and *Qanungoi* had passed into one hand it provided Sundar Thakur with great opportunity to consolidate his position, and in the course of his tenure of office something like an estate was acquired. He might have maintained in his service a large body of armed retainers, for early in the regime of his son and successor, Mahi nath Thakur, the local Faujdar, Nawab Mirza Khan, called upon him to send his forces for imperial services in Palamau and Morang. Mahinath Thakur's services on the occasion were amply rewarded. He was honoured with the grant of, besides the Sadar Zamindari of Tirhut, "the Sadar Zamindari and settlements of Sarkar Farrukhabad alias Monghyr, pertaining to Bihar and the Zamindari of Paraganas Haveli, Purnea and Tajpur pertaining to Bengal and *Chaudhrai* and *Qanungoi* of Sarkar Tirhut which (last two) belong to the grantee according to the farman of Hazrat Arsh Ashiyani, together with a Khilat and Mahi Maratib....in heridity."[10]

Thus even after becoming the *Sadar Zamindar* Mahinath Thakur continued to be the *Sadar Chaudhari* and *Qanungo* of Sarkar Tirhut. We may here agree with Habib that "since *Zamindari* was also treated as implying a duty to collect revenue it is not surprising that *Zamindari* and *Chaudhari* are sometimes coupled together in Mughal documents".[11] But with the passage of time these posts did not carry the original dignity and influence. Even in the time of Mahinath Thakur and his immediate successors these posts appear to have paled into insignificance, for in their wills[12] we do not find any mention of them. By the second half of the 18th century there was so much degradation in this respect that these posts began to be disposed of like any other properties.[13] From an

10 History of Darbhanga Raj, p. 19.

11 Habib, I, *op. cit.*, p. 174.

12 To prevent the dismemberment of the estate by its division among the heirs the practice of executing wills by the reigning Raja's for the adoption of their successors began from the time of Mahinath Thakur. All these wills have been published in History of Darbhanga Raj.

13 I have come across a very interesti g but incomplete document on the sale of *Chaudhrai* among the records the Darbhanga Raj Mahafiz Kh. na. It bears "Goswara No. 1(875" as its reference. The following extracts from the document will serve our present purpose:—

"Tulsi Dutta......Plaintiff.

Vrs.

Choudhari Kewal Kishun—Defendant.

The pleader of the plaintiff has stated in the plaint that Tirbhawan Singh

enquiry of 1793 about the Sadar Qanungoes' *rusoom* we learn that there were Sadar Qanungoes at district or Sarkar level. Prior to the Decennial

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and Lachhman Singh, the proprietors of Paraganas Mahind and Kumhra, Sarkar Tirhut Mahal Nizamat disposed of the entire *Milkiat* of the above mentioned Paraganas along with the right of Chaudhari-ship and Kanoongo-ship to the hand of the grand father of my client, Jivanath Khawash, in exchange of Rs. 205/- in 1165F.S. and executed a Kewala (sale-deed) thereof bearing the seal of Shariat Panah or the asylum of the islamic law. The grand-father of my client (Jivanath Khawas) Khokhan Khawas, Juri Khawas and Saheb Khawas were brothers german. In the year 1166 F.S. the aforesaid Jiva Nath Khawas made partition of the whole and entire proprietory right, Choudhari-ship and the Qanungo-ship of the above mentioned Paraganas among his four brothers equally and executed a deed of partition. In the aforesaid year whatever the malikana was realized therefrom, the four brothers distributed among themselves. As the above named Saheb Khawas was childless; adopted the father of my client, Bhola Khawas and executed a deed of adoption in his favour and died in 1167 F. S. Bhola Khawas, the father of my client took possession of the 4 annas share of Saheb Khawas after his death. From the year 1168 F. S. to 1174 F. S. the above mentioned paraganas were in possession of the Government directly. Chiranjivi Khawas, the uncle, and Bhola Khawas, father of my client, were the possessor of the Malikana, asum as well as dastur Choudharai and the Qanoongo-ship relating to 8 annas share implying 4 annas as Paternal share and the rest 4 annas due to the adoption made by Saheb Khawas out of the moiety part of the entire 16 annas, 4 annas remained in possession of Khokhan Khawas and the rest 4 annas for Juri Khawas.

In the year 1175 F. S. the aforesaid Khokhan submitted a kabuliat for the engagement of the above mentioned paraganas to the then authori y without the consent of Chiranjivi Khawas and Bhola Khawas, the sons of Jiva Nath Khawas as well as Juri Khawas. To this, the three sharers unanimously told the aforesaid Khokhan Khawas that as he had submitted the kabuliat without their consent they were not responsible for any loss or gain if so caused by it. Moreover they added that their Malik na, dastur choudharai as well as Qanoongo-ship should be exclusively separated and be given to them. Thus the above mentioned Khokhan Khawas gave the village Kangur Ghora to Chiranjivi Khawas and Bhola Khawas, the uncle and the father of my client respectively and the village Bandar Jhola to Juri Khawas, the sharer of 4 annas for Malikana and dastur choudharai as well as Qanoongo-ship by execution of a deed and entirely bound himself to the execution of the aforesaid kabuliat so far as the loss or gain was concerned.

Thus the three persons remained in possession of the above named villages from 1175 to 1179 F. S. In the year 1180 F. S. Umroo Jha through the help of Madan Thakur who was favourite to the then authority got Khokhan Khawas imprisioned with infliction of corporal punishment and being fettered

Settlement they received 8 annas percent *rusoom* (allowance) "from parts of the district of Tirhut, from the whole of the district of Sarkar Saran

with chain round his ankles and thus he got the said paraganas executed forcibly in his favour. On such moment none of the individuals, Chiranjiwi Khawas and Bhola Khawas son cf Jivanath Khawas as well as Juri Khawas B/O Jivanath Khawas was present.. For fear of infliction they remained abscor ded. In the year 1188 F. S. Chiranjiwi Khawas and Juri Khawas approached Rai Mohan Lall, the Amil of Sarkar Tirhut, for recovery of their claim to 12 annas proprietory right as well as the right of choudhari-ship and the Qanoongo-ship as shares of their own and got the documents i. e. the deed of partnership as well as the deed of right relating to the villages Kanour Ghora and Bander Jhola that were confirmed for the malikana as well as the rasum and the dastur of Choudhari-ship as well as the Qanoongo-ship respectively, perused. The aforesaid Rai summoned the above mentioned Amar Jha and scrutinized the assertions of the documents in the presence of the parties concerned and raised objections to the said culprit asking him as to how such sale was liable to be effective and valid when he got the share of these persons taken down only by one individual. Thus the date of delivering judgment was extended, me anwhile the aforesaid Umrao Jha was put to dea-h by (illegible) and hence the case was adjourned.

Thereafter my client approached Maharaja Madho Singh in the year 1187 F. S. claiming for the recovery of his proprietory as well as the Choudhari-ship and Qanoongo-ship of the above named *paraganas*. The Maharaja, however, after persuing the plaint of my client ordered that as Hirday Narayan Jha has executed a Kabuliat for Paragana Ladouripete and he had been managing the revenue affairs thereof, it would tell upon the regular adjustment of the revenue by enforcement at any proceeding in the case that time.

During the course of this Mr. Champian was appointed as Judge. Chiranjiwi Khawas and Juri Khawas intended to institute a case in his court for the proprietory right and the Qanoongo-ship. Unexpectedly Juri Khawas and Chiranjiwi Khawas died in the year 1189 F. S. & 1192 F. S. respectively. My client then being minor in age and destitute of sensibility could not lodge any case relating to this.

Now my client has attained majority and aptitude for understanding, he requests Choudhari Kewal Krishna, Son of Umrao Jha deceased, the possessor of the said Parganas to withdraw himself from the 12 annas share his milkiat right as well as the Qanoongo-ship that was not disposed off by his father named Bhola Khawas and his grand father named Juri Khawas and the documents relating to this had been in his possession and the details of his right are such that 8 annas share of his own as well as by adoption made by Saheb Khawas and 4 annas appertaining to the share of the above mentioned Juri Khawas to which my client is the heir. Thus my client is entitled to have the whole and entire 12 annas.

and Champaran".[14] The office of the *Sadar Qanungo* had been in the family of the then incumbents for many generaions. They had in their possession royal Sanads of considerable antiquity.

The report further contains the following information about the condition then obtaining in regard to the office of *Sadar Qanungo* and their relation with *Sadar Paragana* Qanungoes.

"At present their office is certainly of no great utility. As they do not receive their allowance they are unable to station *Gomastahs* in the several *paraganas* and consequently whenever they are called to give information upon any subjcct relating to the *Mofussil*, they derive it from the *paragana Kanungoes*. These, however, are entirely independent and unconnected with the *Sadar Kanungoes*. They do not consider themselves nor are they in any degree subordinate to them nor do they now or their ancestors at any former period receive their appointment from them".

Sadar Zamindari or the Period of Feudal Chieftainship

(1665-1769)

It has already been mentioned that Mahinath Thakur was granted *Sadar Zamindari* and *Milkiat* of Sarkar Tirhut and a number of *paraganas* in other *Sarkars* as a reward for his services to the imperial forces in Morang and Palamau. The spirit of the *farman*, issued for the purpose and also of the letter to the Governor of Bihar, Laskar Khan, in that connection shows that the emperor was not satisfied with the conventional text of the *farman*. He wanted that his favours should be suitably demonstrated. The letter to the Governor says that "since this Hindu Brahman (Mahinath) has displayed such valour, I have by an exalted *farman* granted him the *Sadar Zamindari* and settlements of Sarkar Tirhut and Zamindari of paragana Dharampur, Sarkar Monghyr, and conferred upon him a *Khilat* and *Mahi Maratib*. The valiant Khan (Laskar Khan) too, should bestow some consideration upon him which may honour him in the eyes of his neighbours, and send him a letter of approbation

14 Board of Revenue Fort William Prog. No. 47, dated the 3rd September, 1793, and from a subsequent No. 74, dated the 30th January 1799 we get the following statement of the sources and amount of annual allownces which were recieved by the Sadar Qanoongoes of Bihar before the abolition of the post.

Saran	8535-210	produce of rent-free villages.
Shahabad	500-00-00	
Tirhut	1859-06-10	
Behar	1109-10-10	— exclusive of the rent-free land.

assuring him of the permanent enjoyment of the Zamindari so that other subordinates may be spurred to similar good services".[15]

As with the *Sadar Chaudhrai* and *Sadar Qanungoi* we are here encountered with a new term *Sadar Zamindari*. We have not come across any reference to *Sadar Zamindari* either in Habib or Moreland. The background in which the *farman* was issued the word *Sadar* must have been inserted to distinguish Mahinath Thakur from the existing ordinary Zamindars. The grant of so extensive an area of land (110 *paraganas*) along with the fish insignia[16] shows that he was elevated to the position of a vassal chief. Among the early records of the E. I. company's government the word *Sadar Zamindar* stood for Lord Paramount.[17]

According to the *farman* Mahinath Thakur's duties, as *Sadar Zamindar*, were two-fold. As the revenue officer he was to supervise the collection of revenue, to deposit the same at regular intervals in the treasury of the Dewan of the province and to strive for the habitation of the mahals under him and thereby increasing their revenue. For the increase of revenue in particular, he was directed to depute *amins* in each *paragana*, and get the cultivated and fallow lands measured. He was to contact the *ryots* individually and to extend *Taccavi* to the indigent ones. The Hast-o-bud papers were to be corrected and revenue from *Kham* villages were to be punctually collected in respect of every harvest. For arrears of revenue he was to be held personally responsible and was to account for them in the year following. As the administrative officer he was to attend to the law and order problems of the village, suppress the rebels and dacoits and destroy their strongholds. These functions of the Zamindar remained unchanged till the E. I. Company itself began the farming of revenue. The Zamindars now lost the fiscal control of their charges, but they still retained the office of Zamindar which carried with it the responsible duties both executive and judicial.[18]

The endorsement on the *farman* gives the following details of the area of land granted to Mahinath Thakur.

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15 History of Darbhanga Raj, p. 19.

16 Indian Archives, Vol. XII, Nos. 1-2 p. 47 fn.

17 Progs. of the Patna Council of Revenue, dated the 11th May, 1778.

18 Hand. R., *op. cit.*, 28. This fact is also clear from the famous Judgment of Sachal Mishra in the time of Raja Madhava Singh (published in the *JBORS.*, Vol. VI, part II p. 246).

Province of Bihar

Sarkar Tirhut including the Valley of the Mountain (Sub-Himalayan tract on the north) *Zamindari, Milkiat* and Settlement of 102 *paraganas.*

Sarkar Farrukhabad Monghyr-Settlement of *paragana* Dharampur, 1 *paragana.*

Province of Bengal

Sarkar Purnea	5 *paraganas*
Sarkar Tajpur	2 *paraganas*

The above detail provides a clue to the status of the grantee in respect ofthe several Sarkars. In Sarkar Tirhut he was *Sadar Zamindar* and *malik,* and held settlement of 102 *paraganas.* In respect of Dharampur paragana he was a Zamindar and held settlement of one *paragana* only. But in the text of the farman we find that he was given the *Sadar Zamindari* of Dharampur paragana also. During the E. I. Company's government, at least prior to the permanent settlement, the Raja of the House enjoyed the status of *Sadar Zamindar* in respect of this paragana also. In Sarkar Purnea and Sarkar Tajpur of the Province of Bengrl, Mahinath Thakur was given the status of an ordinary Zamindar and Settlement of seven *paraganas.*

Out of the 102 *paraganas,* 84 belonged to Tirhut proper and 18 *paraganas* were lying in the mountainous region to the north held by the raja of Nepal. Now that Mahinath Thakur had been granted the *Sadar Zamindari* of the mountainous region also, the raja of Nepal, who continued to hold the above mentioned *paragana,* came to be treated like other *Jagirdars* of Tirhut region. From all *Jagirdars* of Tirhut the rajas of Darbhanga used to get *dasturat.* The rajas of Nepal also likewise made an annual acknowledgement of two elephants in lieu of *dasturat*[19] But the custom took long to be firmly established. The raja of Makwanpur (who immediately held the above *paraganas*) had to be attacked and forced to pay an annual *nazarana* (tribute) of Rs. 1200 in elephants to Mahinath Thakur.[20] Later on Raja Raghava Singh had also to make a punitive expedition against the *Tarai* raja, with the result

19 Progs. of the Chief and Council of Patna, dated the 11th May, 1778. The practice is said to have continued till the time ot Maharaja Kameshwar Singh who voluntarily stopped it.

20 History of Darbhanga Raj, p. 22.

that the *nazarana* was increased to Rs. 2500, to be paid in elephants.[21]

The *Zamindari* of the *paraganas* lying in the Province of Bengal was according to traditions, declined by Mahinath Thakur on religious ground.[22] Whatever might have been the considerations the Bengal portion of the *Zamindari* does not appear to have ever been taken possession of. It is significant that while the letter of emperor Aurangzeb to Laskar Khan referred to above, mentions the grant of *Sadar Zamindari* and settlement of Tirhut, *Zamindari* of paragana Dharampur, *Khilat* and *Mahi Maratib* it is silent about the grant of *Zamindari* of the seven *paraganas* in Bengal. Equally suggestive is the fact that the Bengal portion of Zamindari does find any mention in the will of Mahinath Thakur adopting Narapati Thakur as his successor to the estate.

In Sarkar Tirhut itself Paragana Bachhaur appears to have remained out of the *milkiat* of Mahinath Thakur. We have it on record that at least from the time of Raja Raghava Singh till the assumption of the dewani of this province by the E.I. Company the question of Bachhaur paragana cropped up several times, and the rulers of the Darbhanga Raj could not prove and establish their proprietory right over this paragana.[23] This is further evident from the fact that Bachhaur was the only *paragana* in Tirhut in which Madhava Singh did not receive dasturat.[24] The Darbhanga Raj, however, held some *nankar* villages in that paragana from the time of Raja Narendra singh. Later on in the time of Raja Madhava Singh the raj received a sum of Rs.2500 for the *nankar* villages of paragana Bachhaur, in lieu of their attachment by the *Jagirdar* (Muzaffarjung). This arrangement was made owing to the strained relationship between Raja Pratap Singh and Fateh Narhin, the *malik* of Bachhaur paragana.[25]

Nankar grants had also been received by other members of this House. Thus in 1695 Narapati Thakur received *mohalla* Sarai Ram-

21 *Ibid.*, p. 24.

22 अङ्ग, वङ्ग, कलिंगेपु सौराष्ट्र मगधं तथा।
तीर्थं यात्रां विना गत्वा पुनः संस्कार मर्हति ॥

23 For detai s p'ease see History of Darbhanga Raj, pp. 23, 26-27.

24 Board of Revenue records, from George Arbuthnot, Collector of Tirhut, to the President and members of the Board of Revenue Calcutta, dated the 5th February, 1795.

25 Board of Revenue, prog. No. 26, dated Fortwilliam the 20th March, 1795.

chank (86 bighas) in Darbhanga town and taluk Souhan containing nine villages.[26] The *nankar* grants were of two kinds—from the *nankar nakadi* the raj received certain fixed amount in cash and from the other it could derive any benefit as they were held under *Khas* cultivation. We get some ideas of the *nankar* grants under the raj in the time of Raja Pratap Singh from a *parawana* of 14th Rabi-us-Sani 4 Jaloos. According to it the Raja had in his possession *nankar nakdi* of Rs.22,700 and 169 villages scattered over some 67 *paraganas* of Sarkar Tirhut.

We do not get a very clear picture of the management of so extensive an estate during the period. *Paraganas* lying far from the headquarters must have posed serious problems owing to lack of speedy means of communication. There is a tradition regarding the refractory conduct of the revenue collector of Dharampur who is said to have stopped payment of revenue and Raja Raghava Singh had to take punitive measures against him.[27] But, as stated above, the rajas of Darbhanga, during the period, were immediately responsible to the Governor of Bihar. All the financial transactions were carried directly with the provincial treasury. The raj was responsible for the punctual remittance of the revenue of the entire Sarkar of Tirhut. Perhaps the annual demand (of the Government) had been fixed and the estate was responsible to the government for that amount only. Thereafter it made its own assessment of revenue and collected it from the ryots in *kist* (instalment). The excess revenue thus collected by the estate went into its own treasury. Raja Raghava Singh is said to have acquired *mokarari* lease of Sarkar Tirhut at an annual *Jama* of one lac of rupees, and he had been making enormous profit. But as a result of some family feud the matter was brought to the notice of Nawab Alivardi Khan who led an expedition against the raja in 1140 F., seized his property and Sarkar Tirhut was leased to samebody else. After some years the raja with the help of some intermediates could get back the management of the Sarkar but his position was considerably reduced. As against the former practice of the Raj making the revenue assessment and collection according to its own convenience (after paying the fixed annual demand of the government) it was now to get, besides the enjoyment of the proceeds of the *nankar* villages, *Sadui* (two percent) only on the collections. Thus from the exalted position of Sadar Zamindar of Tirhut the raja appears to have been demoted to the position of a revenue collector or *Chaudhari* and aqungo of old. Even in that respect a change

26 Darbhanga Raj Mahafiz Khana records, Goswara No. 7326.

27 History of Darbhanga Raj, p. 24.

appears to have taken place in the mode of remunerating his services. Formerly as *Chaudhari* and *Qanungo* they used to receive one tanka, and one-fourth of a tanka respectively per bigha, but now they were to get a commission of two percent on collection. The original status was however, retrieved in the time of his son, Raja Narendra Singh. Nawab Alivardi Khan restored to him the *malikana* right of the entire Sarkar of Tirhut.[28] Besides, the *dasturat* and a number of other privileges were also confirmed to Raja Narendra Singh by the Nawab. The *Sadui* now became one of the items of dasturat.

From *Rajgi Sanads*[29] of the time of Vishnu Singh, Narendra Singh and Pratap Singh making grants of land to several persons we come to know the names of certain village and paragana officers of the raj. Thus Raja Vishnu Singh in his letter dated Jeth Badi 3, 1146 F. informs Lala Jha of Mauza Bahraba, paragana Bhaur that Hirai Jha has been granted 50 bighas of *brahmotter* land and directs him to get the said land measured and set apart for the grantee. But in the time of Narendra Singh a letter. dated Jeth Sudi 5, 1151 F. is addressed to Nidhi Upadhyaya, perhaps the village accountant, saying that the land under reference had been granted to Hirai Jha as *brahmotter* and as such he should do the needful. It is not clearly stated therein as to why only after five years the grant necessitated further consideration of the raja, the successor of the original granter. It might have been just a confirmatory grant. From another *sanad* of Savan Sudi 5,1151F. We learn that Ratan Sharma was the raj officer of Mauza Mahisam. From a still another *sanad* it is learnt that Banamali Sharma was the Raj official in Mauza Madhepur, paragana Bhaur. There are a number of similar *sanads* of the time of Raja Pratap Singh. It may, therefore, be presumed that for the management of land revenue the raj had its employees both at village and paragana levels, and to the concerned officers a copy of all such land grants were sent for necessary action. Moreover in all these sanads, whether making *brahmotter* or *Vishnupriti* grants, the concerned raj officials are directed to make them *Jama Kharij* (revenue free) in their relevant registers.

Then there are documents of somewhat different nature. They are issued from the imperial court confirming the grants made by the rajas of Darbhanga. Thus Emperor Alamgir II (1754-1759) confirms the *minahi*

28 *Ibid.*, p. 27.

29 These sanads are in Maithili and Sanskrit, and their script is Maithili or Kaithi.

rent-free heriditary grant of the villages of Bewan and Bishunpatti (paragana Mallhmigopal) made by Raja Narendra Singh to the mother of Babu Pratap Singh for her support.[30] By another *farman* the same emperor confirms the grant of 401 bighas of zirat land to the same lady.[31] Emperor Shah Alam II likewise confirms the rent-free grant of *brahmotter* lands, in village Sarson and Itorapahi (paragana Bhaur), made by Raja Pratap Singh to Brahmadatta Jha.[32] Earlier Emperor Ahmad Shah had in 1750 confirmed the grant made by Raja Raghava Singh of an entire village, comprising an erea of 101 acres of land. The main point of interest in this case is that the village under reference was not a *nankar* village.[33] There are a few more confirmatory *farmans* in the custody of the raj. All this suggests that the land grants made by the rajas of this House during the period, required imperial confirmation otherwise the raj perhaps did not get any remission in the *Jama* and had to pay the revenue of all such grants from its own treasury.

We get a faint idea of the manner in which the services of the raj officials were paid. At the time of first *mokarari* Settlement of Tirhut the Revenue Collector, Mr. Keighly, came across certain villages which had not been included in the settlement. "Such villages were in every *paragana*, some paying their village patwaries and gomastahs in grain on the cultivation, and others in money from the year 1173 F. to 1179 F. inclusive"[34].

Land Revenue Administration of the Rajas of Darbhanga during the East India Company's Rule. (1769—1860)

The inauguration of the East India Company's rule over Bihar had a tremendous impact on the position of the Darbhanga Raj. We have already referred to the restoration of the *milkiat* of Sarkar Tirhut and other privileges in the time of Raja Narendra Singh, which were also confirmed to Raja Pratap Singh. In 1769 when Mr. Keighly was appointed Supervisor of Sarkar Tirhut, Raja Pratap Singh was given the Settlement of Sarkar Tirhut. But he mismanaged, with the result that not only the settlement of Sarkar Tirhut was taken away from him but his *malikana Dasturat* was also stopped to liquidate the government dues.

30 Raj Collection of Sanads, Farmans etc., Serial No. 28.
31 *Ibid.* Serial No. 31.
32 *Ibid.* Serial No. 38.
33 *Ibid.*, Serial No. 20.
34 Progs. of Patna Council of Revenue, dated 26th April 1773.

A sum of Rs. 1000 a month was fixed as his subsistance allowance. Next in 1778 Raja Madhava Singh got Mukarari lease of Tirhut but he had also to give it up shortly. It was only after the Permanent Settlement of his Zamindari in 1800 that he was called upon to manage his estate. Prior to Permanent Settlement, Raja Pratap Sīngh and Raja Madhava Singh, had practically nothiug to do with the actual revenue administration of his estate, excepting for the very brief periods referred to above. In principle, however, they continued to be the *Sadar Zamindar* and proprietor of Sarkar Tirhut and Paragana Dharampur (Monghyr). It is obvious from the fact that whosoever happened to be *Amil* or farmer of revenue the contract was not considered to be complete unless it was endorsed by the raja of Darbhanga. We thus read in the proceedings of the Patna Council of Revenue, ... "While Nizamat lands were farmed by Brindaban, Pratab Singh, the late Raja, signed the *Goshawara* or gross Settlement as Zamindar and thereby became responsible for its amount. On the death of Brindaban towards the end of 1181 F. in June 1774.......Raja Kheyali Ram, our Naib Dewan was, Ray Mohan Lal's then refusing to take charge deputed to form the Settlement for the following year 1182 and having effected it the Raja signed the *Goshawara*, thereby becoming responsible to Government for the rents and Mirza Himat Ali was left there as *Sezawal* to collect them, but before the conclusion of the year, sometime in the month of March 1775, Ray Mohan Lal having assented to the former proposal to form it for 5 years, the Raja engaged again with him for the *Goshwara*."

The putting in of the Zamindar's signature on the contract was perhaps a legacy of the former period when the *Chaudhary* similarly affixed his seal.

Moreover the payment *Dasturat Malikana* by the government was itself a recognition of the rights of Darbhanga Raj over the territory of Tirhut. Sarkar Tirhut then consisted, besides the *nankar* lands of the Raj, of *Nizamat*, *Jageer Nuzri*, and *Zubtee mahals*. *Nizamat* lands were those which had never been given to individuals in *Jagir* and whose rents had always been collected on the account of Government. *Nuzri* mahals were *Jagirs* under defective titles, which had been resumed and added to pubiic revenue by Mohammad Reza Khan. The rest of the Sarkar consisted of *Jagirs* which had either reverted to the government by the death of the *Jagirdars* or were still in possession of some *Jagirdars*. The Darbhanga Raj received *Dasturat Malikana* from all these lands,

excepting when it held the Nizamat lands as *Mokararidar*, in which event a corresponding deduction was made in the *Jama* of the leases.

The question of *Dasturat malikana*[35] has been referred to in the general history of Darbhanga Raj. Since it was one of the principal sources of the estate's revenue we propose here to give some additional information to show the extent of the revenue that the Raj received from this source and the machinery employed for its collection. About the year 1777 on an application from Raja Madhava Singh for the restoration of his *Dasturat Malikana* which had been stopped since the time of Raja Pratap Singh, the Governor-General-in-Council directed the Provincial Council of Revenue to submit the necessary account. The *mutsuddies* were accordingly asked to submit their statements in that connection. They laid before the Chief and Council of Patna the following statement—

Balance due from Raja Pratap Singh on account of the Government Revenue of 1178 F. (the year of lease)—		38701-10-6
Collected from his Dasturat from	1179 F. to 1183 F.	Rs. 66925-2-3
Ditto	to the 28th Jeth 1184 F. (19 June 1777)	7104-6 9
do	in the remaining months of 1184 F.	6543-14-6
do	to the end of Paus 1185 F. ..	2927-3-3
		83500-10-00
	Deducted Govt. balance. ..	38701-10-00
	Surplus collected.	44799-00-00
	With Russom Khazana upon it.	559-15-9
	Total Surplus collected ..	45359-00-00

Thus a sum of Rs. 45,359 was to be paid to Raja Madhava Singh as arrears. The Council further resolved the following *Dasturat* which was then collected in Patna Treasury to be given to the raja.

Dasturat of Paragana Nagarbussy 5425-15-00

35 According to Hand *Malikana* was ten percent annuity on the collections made by renters; and *Dasturat* were fees that the Zamindar received from holders of rent-free lands.

Sarkar Tirhut including the *Nuzri*, *Kadim* and *Judeed* and the taluq of Muzaffar Ali Khan etc. ..	5890-08-06
Paragana Hati	3328-04-09
The Jagir of Roopchand	385-02-03
The Jagir of Mir Syfulla	733-09-06
Paragana Nursingpur Corah	629-11-06
Place under charge of Coolchand dispossessed in Sarkar Tirhut	11223-15-09
	27617-03-03

From another statement we get an account of the *Malikana* and *Dasturat* of Raja Madhava Singh in Sarkar Tirhut on account of the mahals of Government exclusive of the *Jagirs*, *Nuzrt*, *Zubty*, from the commencement of 1179 F. to the end of 1184 F,

1179 F.	14,262-01-00
1180 F.	9,924-09-09
1181 F.	12,394-12.03
1182 F.	11,072-14-03
1183 F.	15,288-15-06
1184 F.	17,183-12-00
Total	80,127-00-09

For the verification of the above statement the *Sadar Qanungo* of Tirhut was directed to submit an account of the *Dasturat malikana* of Raja Madhava Singh for the above years. On the 19th March 1778 the account of the *Sadar Qanungo* was examined by the Patna Chief and it was found that the account contained some articles like *Serf* per rupee half an anna and Sayer per rupee one anna, which did not find any mention in the account of *Dusturat* prior to 1179 F. Similarly it included the *Dustur Chaudhary*, which had been abolished.

Besides, we have a statement among these proceedings which Raja Madhava Singh had submitted in January, 1778, in order to obtain the *Mokarari* lease of his Zamindary. Besides giving the Jama of the various paraganas it also gives the *Dasturat Malikana* of the said paraganas. It is follows—

List of proposals for renting the paraganas of Sarkar Tirhut from the commencement of 1186 F.

The paraganas of Sarkar Tirhut including the *Nizamat and Nuzri Mahals* upon the medium Revenue of Ray Mohan Lal for 3 years, viz

1182..................1,90,000
1183..................2,20,000
1184..................2,25,000
6,35,000

Third portion 2,11,666
Deduct Dusturat 20,000
1,91,666

Paragana Nagarbussy formerly the *Jagir* of Raja Mahendra (father of Rajballabh) but resumed by Govt. since 1178 F. and Paragana Nypore whose revenue has not yet been ascertained; as to the end of 1183 F. its revenue was included in Sarkar Hajipur, in 1184 it has been separately rented.

1184 F..............26737-13-06
1185 F..............15956-12-00
42694-4-09-06

One half..................21337-04-09
Deduct *dustoorat*............3712-04-03

17635-00-06

Paragana Haty rented for 5 years to a person including *Dustoorat*, commencing from 1183 F. and terminating at the end of 1187 F., two years therefore are remaining.

Per annum fixed.......11000-00-00
Deduct *dustoorat* for..
3 years............... 3328-04-09

7671-11-03

Paragana Havy & Gurchawan, the Zubty Jagir of Syfulla rate for 3 years.

Per annum..........5000-00-00
Deduct *Dustoorat*...... 733-09-06

4266-06-06

Nursingpur Corah, the *Zubty Jagir* of Raja Murlidhar collected by Government from 1185 F.

Revenue............	7338-15-06	
Deduct Dustoorat....	629-11-06	
		6709-04-00

Ramchawr etc. the *Zubty Jagir* of Roy Roopchand, Revenue from I183 F as follows—

1183 F..........	1900-00-00	
1184 F..........	2020-13-00	
1185 F..........	2272-05-00	
	6193-02-00	
Medium........	2064-06-00	
Deduct Dustoorat	385-02-03	
		1679-03-09
Total—=		2,29,627-10-00

In 1780 Raja Madhava Singh had received a sum of Rs. 54,524 on account of *Dasturat Malikana*. But at the time of the Permanent Settlement of the District in 1800, a sum of Rs. 41,282 only was excluded from the annual Jama on account of *Dasturat Malikana*. All these figures of different years suggest that at least some of the items of *Dasturat Malikana* were not fixed, and they depended on the actual collections.

For the collection of *Dasturat Malikana* the raj had a separate establishment of Gomastah and Mohurrirs at the *Sadar* Cutchery to take out their account, daily receipts and Jama Wasil, *Baki* etc. compared with the *duftar* of the *amil*. Their allowance was paid in specie from the government treasury. Perhaps it was necessary to have correct figures of collections as the *Malikana* of the raj depended on the actual collections. But it is not clear as to why these raj officials were paid from the government treasury.[36] This practice had been, however, in vogue

36 We get some additional evidences on the point that the raj officials engaged in the collection of *dastúrat nankar* were paid by the government from the following statement, prepared in 1782 by the order of the Gcvernor-General-

since long, for a case had been instituted in this connection against the renter of Tirhut, Ray Mohan Lal, by Raja Madhava Singh. Ray Mohan Lal had removed the above raj officials from his Cutchery, and did not permit them to take their accounts from the amil's duftar. On Raja Madhava Singh's representation the officers of the Amanat duftar were summoned by the Board of Revenue and they deposed in favour of the raja. An order was accordingly issued to Mohan Lall "to permit the Raja's mohurrirs to act as usual in Cutchery and pay them their fixed allowance."[37] But the raja's difficulties appear to have continued still for sometime with other *Jagirdars*, for among the proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated the 30th April, 1778, there is an application from Raja Madhava Singh which runs as follows "you granted a parwana to the *Jagirdars* requiring to pay *malikana* and my usual *dastoorat* according to former custom, but they refused allowing my *sheristadars* to continue in their Jagir agreeably to ancient usage. I therefore request another more peremptory *parawana* to them, ordering them to permit my officers to reside in their estates and collect from them on the spot my malikana and *dasturat* etc. as before warranted". A *parawana* was accordingly issued by the Board but it, at the same time, enjoined upon the raja not to levy the charges of *Sadariah* (Saraydih ?) on the *Jagirdars*.

For carrying out the revenue administration during the period the Raj had to keep a large establishment. It had agents (Vakils) at Calcutta, Patna, Muzaffarpur, Purnea and Darbhanga. We often come across their names in the Revenue proceedings of the Patna Council. Thus Jewan Ram was for a long time the agent of the raj at Calcutta and Balam Lal at Patna. Likewise from the report of Buchanan we learn that the raj had at Purnea agents who attended on the Judge and another who transacted business with the collector.

At the headquarters were the *naib*, *Gomastah* and *Sadar Tahsildar*. Bhāwanidutta Mishra of Dhagjari was the *naib* to both Raja Pratap

in-Council on an application from Raja Madhava Singh as Zamindar of Paragana Dharampur.

Amount of the Zamindar's nankar	Allowance to his Sadar amlah	Allowance to his mofussil amlah	Allowance for Rozeena chanda	Total
5220-6-17-2	3612-0-0-0	1932-0-0-0	480-0-0-0	11244-6-17-2

37 Prog. of Patna Council of Revenue, dated the 7th August, 1777.

Singh and Raja Madhava Singh. He wielded considerable influence,[38] and actually managed the affairs of the raj. At the *Paragana* level also the raj had *Tahsildars*, *Peshkar* and *Gomastahs*. We have already referred to the *Gomasta* and *mohurrirs* engaged in the collection of *Dasturat*. At the village level, there were *patwaris Jethryots* and *Goraits*. Among the *Rajgi Sanads*, which are very important for our purpose; there is a *Sanad* dated Bhadra Badi 5 1253 F. of Raja Rudra Singh appointing one Manmohan as *Naib Tahsildar* of Paraganas Hati, etc. of Sarkar Tirhut.[39] As to his duties the letter says that "he should be daily present in his office and after making himself, thoroughly acquainted, by consulting his peshkar, with arrears against individual *assamies* (tenants) under *Dehat Khangi*, *Deorhiati* and *Khamat* villages etc. he should take measures to realise them. At the close of the year he should summon the *mofussal amlas* and check up their accounts and to see whether the collection and expenditure had been made according to assessment and explain the same to the Sarkar (the Raja). No expenditure, excepting of a trifling amount, be incurred without the sanction of Sarkar (Raja). He will also call for the papers of Paragana Tahsildars every month for close scrutiny, and stop the expenditure which might have been incurred without necessary sanction and report the matter to the Sarkar. He will take his salary according to the rates fixed (बमौजिब तालिका). He should not execute any deed, and for the rest he will act according to instructions."

Besides the Raj had a large body of retainers. In 1857 it was found that the Raja had over 1000 up-countrymen alone in his services.

Some of the Raj officials were paid by assignments of land or certain per centage on the collections. There are among the *Rajgi Sanads* three in the names of raj officials. Two sanads of 1207F. make land grants of 97 (35 + 62) bighas on the annual rent of eight and four annas respectively for *Dhanhar* and *Bhitha* lands. The third Sanad, dated Asad Badi 13, San Sadar, is in the name of Shri Lakshman. The grantee is informed that he has been allowed from 1200 F. (1792 A.D.) to collect fee of one

38 History of Darbhanga Raj, p. 34.

39 The author of *Chandrakula praśasti* has quoted, at pages 41-42, a similar letter of appointment of the time of Maharaja Chhatra Singh, dated Baisakh Sudi 13, San 1245 F. By this letter Pt. Devakinandan Thakur is appointed as manager of the same paraganas i. e. Hati etc. There is practically no difference in the wordings of the two letters of appointment. It appears as if Manmohan had succeeded Pt. Devakinandan Thakur on the above post.

rupee per village in paragana Dharampur, Sarkar Monghyr, for his own use. The Sanad further says that the *ryots* of the concerned Paragana have also been informed accordingly.

As to the system followed in the administration of revenue the description given of the Dharampur paragana in the account of Buchanan[40] may serve as an example. The raj portion of the paragana was divided into three parts—Viranagar, Bhavanipur and Gondwara. In each of these portions the raja had been obliged to make over considerable lands (totalling 30,000 bighas) to Ganga Govinda Singh, Company's Dewan in the government of Hastings, who is said to have procured for the raj a total remission of revenue on all *Khamat* lands. Viranagar, after excluding the lands of Ganga Govinda contained about 7,20,000 bighas, one-fourth of which was exempted from assessment. About one-tenth of the lands had been leased in perpetuity to others for a trifle amount. But the *mokararidars* had no right to sell it and in the event of failure of male heirs the land was to revert to the raj. Rest of the lands were let to ordinary tenants. Likewise in Bhavanipur, containing about 3,44,000 bighas, one-fourth was exempted from assessment and one-fourth was leased in perpetuity. Gondawara contained about 7,47,000 bighas. About 1,22,000 bighas were exempted from assessment. One-sixth of the remainder had been leased in perpetuity for Rs.7,530 a year. Rest of the lands were let to ordinary tenants. In this connection certain terms were used denoting the nature of lease. *Kasht* was lease in perpetuity at a low rent. Half of the *Kash* lands were called *Jot Juma*. In this case if the lease-holder could cultivate only half the land the Zamindar could not give the waste land to anybody else; nor could he demand any rent for the fallow land. The other half of the *Kast* was called *Kamanani* juma. In this case even if the tenants neglected cultivation the lease-holder had to pay the rent. *Meyadi* leases were given for a fixed term of three to five years. But it did not enable the Zamindar to enhance the rent of his land after the expiry of the period. There was a customary rate beyond which the Zamindar could not fix his demand. No doubt, rates varied from village to village. In certain cases the rates varied in the same village, and they were unconnected with the value of land. No fee was charged at the time of the renewal of th· *meyadi* leases. *Meyadi* leases differed from *kasht* only in their rates. The former were

40 Buchanan, F., Purnea Report, published by the Bihar Research Society, pp. 510-513.

rated high, that is, from $3\frac{1}{2}$ to $10\frac{1}{2}$ annas per bigha, while, the rate of Kasht lease was from $1\frac{3}{4}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ anans per bigha.

At the time Buchanan made his famous survey of the Purnea district he found that the rents of the whole estate of Dharampur had been farmed by a relation of the raja for Rs. 2,28,000. He, however, deducted one anna a rupee for the expense of collection. He kept four enormous establishments—one at Purnea and one in each of the three portions of the estate. He had sublet it to numerous inferior *mostagirs*, to whom he allowed one anna on the rupee of the collections and for that they were bound to defray his every expense and all bad debts.

Similarly, earlier in 1778, when Raja Madhava Singh had taken the *Bundobast* of Sarkar Tirhut he had also sublet it to a number of his relations and officials. From a list[40*] of the *assamies* confined in the Jail on account of arears of revenue for the year 1189F. (1781). We find the following names of *Motaheeds* (sub-renter)—

1. Bhawani Dutta Mishra, *Motaheed* of Paragana Nollan.
2. Julka Das, *Motaheed* of Paragana Jarail.
3. Khagesh Chaudhary, *Motaheed* of Paragana Shahjahanpur.
4. ungle Thakur, *Motaheed* of Paragana Burwara.
5. Jeeb Chaudhary, *Motaheed* of Paragana Hatee.

This practice of farming the estate appears to have continued even after the Permanent Settlement, which proved to be very disastrous in the long run. Thus we read the following in a report of the Secretary to the Board of Revenue; "The rental in the time of the late Maharajah (Maheshwar Singh) and his forefathers was little more than nominal, it was never realised and was, in fact, not susceptible of realisation. The property was assigned away under fictitious leases, to the numerous hangers-on and domestics of the palace, who met all demands for rent with monstrous counter-demands on account of supplies and services, which the Maharajas were too ignorant or too indolent to contest and which were never contested until the court of wards appeared upon the scene."[41]

Yet in another report the state of affairs prevailing in the raj prior to its being taken over by the court of wards is described as follows. "The gross annual rental of the estate was nominally Rs. 16,39,357 and the government revenue only Rs. 4,07,484. But the management had for

40* Board of Revenue Prog. No. 10, Calcutta, dated the 21st November, 1782.

41 Letrer No. 19A, from Secretary to the Board of Revenue to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, dated the 13th January, 1866.

years been left entirely in the hands of underlings. All the villages were leased to farmers, most of them relatives of the Raj servants, who had got their lease on favourable terms. Others were outsiders, men of straw, who had nominally undertaken to pay rents far above the value of the lands, and who made what they could by rack-renting the ryots and levying illegal cesses without attempting to satisfy the Raj demand. Security for payment was never taken from the farmers. Pottahs and Kabooliats were seldom interchanged. The correct rental of the villages were nowhere recorded. Patwaris' paper were seldom forthcoming."[42]

Sanads of Raja Madhava Singh

I have studied about 21 *Sanads* of Raja Madhava Singh of different years (from 1783 to 1805). The recepients of the grants are in many cases his near relatives. There are three *sanads* in the name of his eldest daughter, Rajmati. By the first *sanad* of 1191 F. she was granted 25 bighas of land, in Mauza Dumra, Paragana Gaur. By the second (of 1192) she was granted, free of rent, the villages of Jalsene (Paragana Gaur) and Mahinathpur (paragana Bhaur) including the tanks and orchards but not the ancient *brahmottar*, *Shivottar* and *Inamat* lands. With similar restriction village Nahar was granted to her in 1208 F. When she died the village was confirmed to her son in 1213 F. In this *sanad* it is further stated that in case the government insisted upon payment of revenue from him, a sum of Rs. 201 shall be adjusted from his (Madhava Singh's) *Dastur Malikana*. Earlier in 1210 F. Jankinath had been granted one hundred and twenty five bighas of *brahmottar* land, in Paragana Jabdi, on the occasion of his *upanayan* (sacred thread ceremony) and the raj official of the paragana, Shri Gunanidhi Sharma, was directed to make necessary adjustment.

Then there are four *sanads* in the name of Raj officials, making grants of land by way of remuneration for their services. Two *sanads* in the name of Dhiraj Narain Choudhary. Both are dated Jeth Sudi 3,1207 F. By one *Sanad* he is granted 35 bighas of land on the annual rent of eight and four annas per bighas respectively for *Dhanahar* (lands wherein paddy is grown) and *Bhitha*. The third *sanad* is dated Asin Badi 13, San Sadar addressed to Shri Lakshmi. The addressee is informed that he has been allowed to collect, from 1200 F. the fee or one rupee per

42 Revenue Department, Land Revenue Resolution, dated, Darjeeling the 24th June, 1880.

village in paragana Dharampur Sarkar Monghyr, for his own use. It further says that the ryots also have been informed accordingly. Bhola Sharma, Thikadar (contractor) and Dhiraja Narain Chaudhary (Raj officer) are informed, for necessary adjustment, that an annual fee of Rupees ten has been levied upon Ojha Dayanath Jha (a relative of the Raja) by way of compensation to the Thikadar from the year 1201 on account of his (Dayanath's) occupation of certain lands in village Sarisava Dahawra (Paragana Bhaur).

By another sanad of 1192 F., Dhairya Narain Chaudhary and Madan Singh are informed to exempt Pandit Subodh Jha who owns 21-bighas of *brahmottar* land in village Kakordhap from the payment of *Behari Rasad* as he happens to be a close relative of the Raja.

These Sanads show that (i) raj could give away land without any corresponding deduction in its Jama from the government unlike the practice in the pre-British period, when such sanads were sent to the imperial court for endorsement.[42*]

(ii) Such land grants did not affect the existing *brahmottar*, *Shivottar*, *Inamat* and *Minahi* lands even when the entire village was gifted.

(iii) The practice of remunerating the services of raj employees in terms of land still continued.

(iv) On the death of the grantee a renewal of the grant in favour of the grantee's heir was necessary.

42* Recently I have come across the following copy of a *parwana* in the Raj Mahafiz Khana, from the contents of which it apnears that in certain cases the *sanads* issued by the raj were sent to the government for record, even during the British period. The *parawana* bears the seal of Deweni Adalat and signature (in English charactor) of Mr. Thornbell, Acting Judge of Purnea. It is addressed to Rajkumar Shrikrishna Singh, Zamindar of paragana Dharampur, and is dated 1st February, 1801.

"That prior to this a petition received from you and also one received from your father Raja Madho Singh through the bearer Bhim lal Gumasta have been perused. It is indicated therein that th *milkiat zamindari* of paragana Dharampur was granted by your father to your honour on the occasion of the *Ru-numai* ceremany and as such this grant has been entered in the *Roznamcha Bahi*.

At the same time your petition sent through your Gumasta stating that you shall ever remain firm and loyal to us, and therefore you are directed that you should be constant and diligent in all your activities and also to give us timely information of the situation and other important matters that may come for needful.

Revenue management under the Court of Wards (1860-1879)

On the death of Maharaja Maheshwar Singh, leaving behind two minor sons and a daughter, the estate was taken over by the Court of Wards in December, 1860. The estate then comprised an area of about 2466 miles situated in the districts of Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, Bhagalpur, Monghyr and Purnea. The estate owned houses in Patna, Varanashi and Darjeeling. The gross rental of the estate at the time it was taken over, was Rs 16,40,000. [43]

The actual divisions of the estate were called the Tirhut and Naridigar property in the districts of Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur and Bhagalpur; the Dharampur property in Purnea, and the Kharagpur property in Monghyr.

The actual rent roll of these estates in 1876-77 stood as follows :—

Names of the estate.	Rent Roll.	Govt. Revenue.	Net profit.
Tirhut.	15,42,545	1,98,732	13,43,813
Naridigar.	2,95,157	30,996	2,64,361
Dharampur.	2,26,049	1,95,142	30,907
Kharagpur.	81,805	11,122	30,6S3
	21,45,556	4,35,792	17,09,764

From the very beginning of the Ward's management the estate was farmed out in portions to *ticcadars* (lease-holders). The system continued till 1866 when, consequent upon the failure of a *ticcadar* the Panchmahal (comprising paraganas Ladwari, Delawarpur, Bahadurpur, Parihar Muhoowas and Naranga) came under *Sir* (direct) management. The rest of the estate, however, continued to be leased out till 1872 when, under Sir George Campbell's order, the *Ticcadari* system gradually gave place to the *Sir* management. Although Sir George had.contemplated the entire abolition of *ticcadari* system, some leases were renewed even after that year. In some cases the period of lease went beyond the period.of Ward's administration. Thus at the close of the year 1875-76, about 319 mauzas were held by *ticcadars* on an aggregate Jama of

43 In 1864-65 the gross rental of the estate was Rs. 17,13,920 and the net profit after paying the government revenue and rent to the proprietors was Rs. 12,29, 123 only. At the time of the surender of the estate to Maharaja Lakshmeshwar Singh the gross rental was Rs. 21,61,885.

Rs. 8,06,934, while the remainder of the Tirhut estate with a Jama of Rs. 10,24,396 was held under *Sir* management.

For the *Sir* management there were under the immediate control of the Assistant Manager, Mr. Llewhelin, five head *tahsildars* and sixteen *naib tahsildars* with their establishments costing in all Rs. 58,956 per annum.

The *Sir* management had been introduced with the intention of improving the condition of the ryots, but it had no such effect in the beginning. So far as the rents and collections were concerned there was practically no difference between the two systems. The traditional and illegal manner of collecting rent continued.

We get a somewhat clear picture of the defective working of this system from the following extracts from the annual report of the Officiating Manager of the estate, Major Money, for the year 1876-77.

"Under this system *Pottahs* and *Kabuliyats* were not exchaned, and if a ryot had any right in the land he cultivated, he was ignorant of what it was. At the commencement of the year no ryot knew what the demand on him for that year would be; he had a vague idea that he held a certain amount of land at a certain rate, but by how much he would have to supplement this rent in the course of the year in payment of *abwabs*, *khurchas*, *Salamis*, *sayar* and peori's pay and extortion he was quite ignorant, neither did he know the amount shown against him as an arrear, nor did he know how much of his current payments were credited to current demand, and how much to arrear. *Patwarrees* often gave no receipts for rent paid, and when they did give them, they did not specify the *kist* or the year to which the payments were credited.

The management itself never knew what the *Jummabandi* of the estate for any year was until that year had expired, and even that it would be long before it was accurately known as *Jummabandis* came in from *Putwarrees*, in some cases years after they were due.

There were nominal *kists* for payment of rent, but no fixed dates were observed on which, year by year, certain *kists* of rent became due, nor was the amount which might be demanded on each crop ever known before hand, as the amount of the kist to be demanded was fixed by the Assistant Manager when he received the reports of the *tahsildars* as to the value of the crop, *bhadoi*, *aghani* or *rabii*, as it might be, then on the ground.

In the matter of payment of his rent and enjoyment of the produce of his fields the ryot was not a free agent, and the means taken to enforce payment of the *kists* demanded were strictly illegal. These means were a general prohibition to a village community to touch their just ripened crops until they had paid up their rents, or the *Jeyt ryot* had agreed to be personally responsible for their payment. This prohibition was enforced by *muzkoori* peons and sawars who, as long as they were in the village, levied their own pay, food etc. from the villagers.

Under such a system the *Jeyt ryot* and *putwarees* would naturally became all powerful, especially, as *putwarees* were not-kept up to date with their accounts but as above stated, were allowed to get in many instances years in arrears. They could do much as they liked, and badly paid as these appointments are, they were so coveted that a would-be *putwaree* was always ready to pay a good premium to any one he thought could obtain him a *putwareeship*.

The *tahsildars* and *naib tahsildars* appointed to carry out this system in the *Sir* department were not of a class from whom honesty under great temptation could have been looked for; they were in receipt of small salaries, and most of them were soon well known in the district for their oppression".

It is therefore not surprising that the Assistant Manager, Mr. Llehwhellin, admitted that he single-handed could not supervise the illegal and oppressive practices of a host of subordinates. Major Money, who succeeded him as Assistant Manager, in 1876 issued orders for the stoppage of illegal distraint. The employment of unpaid *sawars* and peons was stopped. The collection of *khurchas*, *salamis* and *abwabs* was likewise prohibited. To effect further improvement in the management the *tahsildari* system was replaced by the circle system. Under this system the Raj was divided into a number of circles and placed under circles officers, designated as sub-managers. They were to be appointed from amongst men of a better class than the old *tahsildars*, with high emoluments. These sub-managers with a sufficient establishment were to collect the rents and revise the Jummas in their respective circles.[44]

The circle system was inaugurated in August, 1876. It was started with four circles under sub-managers. in addition to Naridigar which remained under its old *tahsildar*, Mr. Duff, and Allapur in which Mr.

44 For details regarding rules for the guidance of sub-managers please see appendix No. 1.

Finucane,[45] superintended the collection which were made by one of the old *tahsildars*. It was, however, soon discovered that only four sub-managers could not do the work. Naridigar and Allapur were made full-fledged circles; and two more circles were established during the course of the year. Each of the eight circles had the following establishments—

Accountant	.....Rs. 90/	Month
Ameen	....Rs. 25/-	
1st writer	....Rs. 30/-	
2nd, writer	....Rs. 25/-	
Head Mohurrir	....Rs. 20/-	
2nd Mohurrir	....Rs. 15/-	
3rd Mohurrir	....Rs. 12/-	
Duffadar and I5 Peadahs	....Rs. 8I/-	
Dak Peon	....Rs. 4/-	
Sweeper	....Rs. 2/-	
One Poddar	....Rs. 8/-	
	Rs. 312/-	

The sub-managers pay was Rs.375/- each per mensum.

The new system was greatly affected at the outset by the paucity of officers. A long time elapsed before the sub-manager could join their posts. They experienced considerable difficulty in writing up their new registers owing to the backward state of the *Patwarees* accounts and getting hold of the village *Jummabandis*. The *Patwarees* and *Jethryots* had adopted very unhelpful attitude. Major Money thus observed about them in his first annual report, "these man, there can be little doubt, have in many instances actively opposed us and been most obstructive, as they had higherto held the ryots and their purse or paying power in their own hands and could make much loot, while now their power for evil has to a great extent vanished." Besides, *Jethryots* were found in large numbers in most *mauzas*. In some cases there were as many as 30 or 40 in villages where the total collections hardly exceeded Rs. 6000. Major Money ascribed their great number to the old *ticcadari* system. This state of affairs had attracted the notice of Mr. Keighly as early as 1773 when he observed, "For it was formerly too much the practice to divide a Paragana into as many *Assuli* villages as it contained, which always occasioned dispates

45 Mr. Finucane of the Civil Service was then making Settlement of Allapur Paragana.

and quarrels by having so many collectors in one Paragana and that very often from one men, the *Chaudhari* and who has been obliged perhaps to sign to what the different *Muccuddums* chose to charge without the least attention to justice."[46] The *ticcadars* appointed new and additional men when the old ones did not please them. Moreover they did not do themselves the work for which they had been appointed. In most cases, *Patwarees* used to make collections since the Raj recognised the practice. *Patwarees* had to give heavy amount of security. Major Money stopped it. Patwarees were no longer required to furnish any security, their work being limited to the village accounts. The *Jethryots* were obliged to make collections personally. Money was not satisfied with that much. He strongly pleaded with the government for the reduction of their number.

Major Money was equally critical of the holding of leases by Indigo-planters. Complaints by ryots had reached him of the oppressions they had suffered from the *ticcadari* indigo-planters. He did not doubt the veracity of such complaints. It is true that there were a few planters, like Mr. Anderson of Kamtaul, who were in perfect harmony with their ryots and respected by the local people, but the majority of them had no good records to their credit. Money hoped that the evil system would not continue for long, as the Raj might not renew the leases.

In 1878, a conference was held at Darbhanga to review the progress of the new system. It was attended by all the sub-managers, manager, collector of Tirhut and commissioner of the division. Referring to this event in his report, dated the 31st August, 1878 A.J. Harrison, Secretary to the Board of Revenue, recorded the following about the new circle system—

"There is no difference of opinion as to the new system of sub-managers of circles being a great success. The collections during the year have been very satisfactory and still better results are expected in some circles for the current year.......

The duties of the sub-managers are just what the designation of sub-manager indicates that they ought to be. The sub-managers go into the details of business of every kind connected with estate management with the *Jeytryots*, *Putwarees* and *ryots* of their circle in a manner which it would be impossible for the Manager to do while all important matters are sent up for his orders. The system of diaries, reports, frequent reali-

46 Progs. of the Patna Council of Revenue, dated the 26th April, 1773.

sation of rents from *Putwarees* and *Jeytryots* and periodical remittances to the headquarters appeared excellent and only to need to be closely watched and strictly carried out to ensure success. The ryot can communicate with a real representation of the management easily. If the system is preserved in the *Jeytryots* and *Putwarees* will in a few years only receive from the *ryots* just what the latter choose to give instead of the cesses which have been exacted for generations while the Zamindar will get his dues and preserve his right".

As to the reduction in the number of *Jethryots* Harrison advised great caution in the matter. He wanted the process of elimination to be gradual. Already their position had been reduced to ordinary *ryots*. They had accepted the change and agreed to pay full rents. But Harrison had his own doubts whether they would do so at the time of actual payment. Some of them were influential men and might create difficulties and trouble "if too sudden pressure and loss of emoluments were to lead them to use their influence with the ryots against the interest of the estate". Harrison, therefore, favoured the idea of "a scheme for compromise where there seems any probability of trouble".

The new scheme had worked for about 3 years only when Maharaja Lakshmeshwar Singh attained maturity and took over his estate from the Ward's administration. But the system continued more or less, till the abolition of the Zamindari itself in 1952. Sir Ashley Eden, the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal (1877-1882) to whom the Ward's administration report was submitted was generally satisfied with the achievements of the Ward's administration. He was, however, not satisfied with the expenditure upon public works within the Raj and considered that "the establishments kept up were often needlessly extravagant, and the rates paid needlessly high." But there can be no two opinions that it was during the Ward's administration that the estate was financially placed for the first time on a sound footing. It is true that the *ryots* suffered too much during the early years of its administration but that was more the results of the disorganised state of things in which the Ward's had assumed the reins of administration. It took the administration some years before it could bring the ruinious system under its control.

Condition of the Ryots under the Darbhanga Raj

We do not possess any particular knowledge of the condition of ryots of Sarkar Tirhut during the period of *Chaudharai* or *Zamindari* of the House of Darbhanga. In most of the Mughal *Farmans* either making the

appointment of revenue officers or the grant of *nankars* special emphasis is laid on the duties of the grantee to effect improvement in the condition of ryots and keep villages, under their charge, well-populated. In times of scarcity they were to advance *taccavi* to enable the ryots to cultivate their lands. It is very difficult to say as to how far these general instructions were carried out in practice. But all accounts on the subject agree on this point that the great task of the period under review was to keep the tenants on land. Therefore the the revenue officers engaged in the collection of rents could not have afforded to be very exacting. Deduction in the *juma* was usually allowed for loss of the crops from natural calamities.

During the early years of the E. I. Company's rule the pernicious system of revenue farming was again introduced, according to which lands were leased for a certain period of time to the highest bidders. In most cases strangers, who were quite ignorant of the revenueryielding capacity of the lands, took leases and resorted to all sorts of oppression to realise from the ryots as much as they could. The result was, as we read in the petitions of Raja Madhava Singh, that the greater part of his Zamindari was laid waste by the renters or their agents. At the time of the permanent Settlement he claimed deduction from the Jama on account of the improvmentr, he had effected in certain *paraganas*. The Raja thus wrote in his Urzee—[47]

"Paragana Allapur etc. situate at the foot of the hills, which by farming at a low rate, I brought with great trouble into cultivation this *Paragana*. Since it has been made *Sir* numbers of ryots have absconded..."

The Collector of Tirhut had earlier (Nov. 1788) made a similar complaint against the Raja that he had not fulfilled the conditions on which the *dasturat* was conferred; "on the contrary he had multiplied distress, he had abetted injustice, he had desolated the country, and had driven the ryots from the fields".[48] Mr. Keighly had as far back as 1773, drawn the attention of his superiors to the inherent evils of giving leases to outsiders. In justification of his having given leases to Bhavani Dutta Mishra and Madan Thakur, the officers of Raja Pratap Singh, he thus wrote, "The ryots confide in their words and with satisfaction cultivate under them. It is for these and further reasons that I would myself prefer settling the country primarily with its inhabitants to the residents

47 Board of Revenue Prog. No. 20, Fortwilliam 23 October, 1799.

48 Statistical Accont of Tirhut Vol. XII, p. 211.

of Patna or other parts, for whether they are good or bad men the very name of their taking charge on a Mokarari Plan would breed a disaffection in the mufassil. For the poor ryots have been so pillaged formerly by the Sadar renters that they can never be persuaded to confide in them."[49]

But the government perhaps did not share his views and the farming system continued with all its evils.

At some places, however, the ryots were not a hopeless lot. They could put up a defiant attitude towards their new rulers. The Collector of Tirhut, George Arbuthnot, met stiff opposition at several places while he was engaged in making settlement of the Bharawara Paragana. The Paragana was formerly a *Jageer* which had been resumed and brought under *Sir* (direct) management. The Collector had gone there to settle it with the several Zamindars who owned villages in the *Jageer*. The Collector thus reported on the attitude of the ryots there—"It was in this Paragana that I not only met with the greatest difficulties, but the conduct of the ryots was more turbulent than I could have possibly imagined, a body of more than 1000 at one time surrounded my tents and were so outrageous in their behaviour that they seemed as if determined to dictate their own terms".[50]

Raja Madhava Singh declined to engage for his *milkiat* villages in the same *paragana* on the ground that "they (the villages) were peopled by a turbulent set of Mussalman ryots".[51]

The above might be exceptional cases. The ryots in general were very much suppressed. They bore the oppressions with a philosophical indifference. When it proved unbearable they used to leave their villages surreptitiously. Even after the Permanent Settlement of the Zamindari with Raja Madhava Singh the same system of revenue farming continued. Instead of renters from outside there were now the Raj officials in most cases the sub-renters. The obligation of Permanent Settlement, to give to the ryots *pattahs* containing the area and rent of their holdings was not fulfilled. We have already referred to the Condition obtaining in this respect when the estate was taken over by the Court of Ward's adminis-tion.[52] Even the Ward's administration which did so much for the

49 Prog. of the Patna Council of Revenue, dated 26 April, 1773.

50 Board of Revenue Prog. No. 26, dated Fortwilliam, 20 March, 1795.

51 From G. Arbuthnot, Collecter of Tirhut, to the President and Members of the Board of Revenue, dated 5 February, 1795.

52 Supra, p. 246.

proprietor of the estate, did not make the condition of the ryots more prosperous. Many of them, as observed the Lieutenant Governor (Ashley Eden) were living on merely from hand to mouth, having suffered much from successive bad seasons.[53] True, the ryots had been relieved from multifarious illegal cesses, unjust exactions of *ticcadar*, got remissions of rents in famine years, and *taccavi* advances free of interest but Sir Ashley Eden had little doubt that "the cultivators on the Darbhanga estates are suffering from the same causes which in long course of years have reduced the peasantry of Behar generally to a lower level than that of ryots in central and Eastern Bengal. There has been in years gone by, under the court of wards, the same kind of rack-renting, the same ignoring of ryot's right, the same unwillingness to recognise occupancy tenures, the same resort to illegal distraint, that have been found and condemned in every district of Bihar." In the opinion of the Lieutenant Governor the one very important work that had been done for the improvement of the ryots by the ward's administration was the survey and settlement of the Allapur and Naridigar Paraganas. This too had been forced upon it by the report of the Famine Commission (1875) which found that "a large number of the tenantry had fled from their houses to avoid the burden of debt due to enhanced rent which lay upon them too heavily".[54]

53 History of Darbhanga Raj, p. 68.

54 Bihar State Archives, Annual Report of the offg. Manager, Major Money, on Darbhanga Estates, 1876-1877.

APPENDIX I.

Rules for the guidance of sub-Managers appointed under the orders of Government, dated 12th July, 1876, and Board of Revenue, No. 445A dated 26th June, for the management and realization of rent on the Estates of the Maharajah of Darbhanga :

1. The Assistant to the manager is charged immediately, under the orders of the manager, with the supervision of all rent collections and matters generally connected with the revenue management of the Estate.

2. The following registers will be kept in each sub-Manager's office—

*1. Register of each village (with its Patwari) of share of a village, the property of the minor.

2. Register of mouzahs, showing the jama, area, and holding of each tenant in the form approved, in the vernacular and in English.

*3. Towji register.

*4. Register of absconding tenants and new settlers.

*5. Register of precise of vernacular orders received.

*6. Register of vernacular reports made to head-quarters.

*7. Register of English correspondence.

*8. Register of tuccavee and seed advances.

*9. Register of realization of grain advances.

10. Register of rent payments in grain.

*11. Register of gutchbund.

12. Despatch-book.

13. Register of rain-fall.

14. Register of receipt and disposal of collections in English.

15. Daily cash-book in English.

*16. Acquittance register of patwaries'pay.

3. The Sub-Managers are directly charged with the safe custody of all money received by them and with the keeping of prescribed accounts.

4. The sub-Managers will visit and make themselves thoroughly acquainted with each village and its circumstances whilst carrying

Note :—All registers marked with asterisks to be kept in the vernacular.

out the orders given in paragraph 4 of the Board's letter No. 445A of 26th June, 1876.

5. Each tenant is to receive a statement in the authorized form of the land said to be held by him and the arrears of rent due.

6. This form may, until further orders, be exchanged for a regular kabuliyat, and a pottah, if desired, given after regular measurement and settlement.

7. The Primary duty of the sub-Managers is to keep collection of rent up to date, but they will also enquire into all petitions for remissions or as to rates, and any other matter connected with the management of the villages in their circle on which the assistant to the manager desires them to report. They will keep regular separate dockets either in the vernacular or in English of each matter.

8. All matters requiring the orders of, the assistant to the manager at head-quarters should be promptly reported, communication being made as a rule in English, a note of the proceedings being made in a weekly diary to be submitted to Mr. Liewhellin.

9. The checks on sub-Managers are to be as follows :—

For each kist due the sub-Manager will submit a general statement showing the current demand. This will he submitted to the head-quarters, and will represent the demand. Any arrears will form the subject of enquiry and explanation. The remittances will be checked by the original challans sent to the head office.

10. A department will be formed in the head office called the "Khas" accountant's office, which will be specially charged with the audit of these accounts.

11. No money will be disbursed by any sub-Manager from collections in hand beyond his permanent advance for purely contingent expenses. (Rs. 50).

12. All money is to be credited in the daily cash receipts, whether received in part payment or in full.

13. All the vernacular records of each circle to be yearly sent to the record-keeper at Darbhanga.

14. Collections are to be made by the village jethryots and paid direct into the sub-Manager's treasury.

15. All realizations on account of arrears of rent are to be made

strictly in accordance with the provisions of the law, and may be made either by legal distraint or by a suit for arrears of rent.

16. There will be three kists as follows :—

Madhubani, Darbhanga and Naredigar

4 annas due on 1st October.
10 do 15th January.
2 do 1st April.

Tajpore

5 annas due on 1st October.
3 do 15th January.
8 do 1st April.

17. Ryots must be urged to pay up punctually on these dates, and given to understand that the Manager will enforce any agreements providing that the kists not paid on these dates shall become arrears of rents, and then be realized through the courts.

18. All complaints preferred by ryots against either Putwari or jethryots should, as far as possible, be investigated by the sub-Manager when visiting the village.

19. New leases after measurement of the lands will be given for eleven years, and pottah and kabuliyats exchanged. Till this is done all ryots, whether new or old, should receive a copy of the "abstract of register".

20. Any application to take up uncultivated land in village should be at once reported to the assistant to the manager.

21. Bhaoli lands—The sub-Manager will estimate what quantity of seed-grain it is desirable should be stored by the Raj for possible wants in his tahsil, and he should collect rent of bhaoli lands in kinds, only to an extent sufficient to obtain the requisite quantity of grain; rent of other bhaoli lands should be converted, where possible, into cash payment. In those cases where rent in kinds is taken, the amount of grain to be delivered by the tenant should be "hoondah." The sub-Manager must by experiment ascertain the actual average produce of fields, and fix the amount to be given as rent according to the proportion laid down by the Manager.

22. Boundaries of each field are to be entered in the abstract of registers given to the ryots, as named by the jeth ryots and putwaris.

23. If any of the following abwabs are found to exist, their

collection should at once be discontinued, with the exceptions noted below :—

1. Hissabana.
2. Punchit.
3. Kurcha.
4. Bhatta.
5. Anni Patwari.
6. Kurcha doorbund.
7. Mungni.
8. Kulmie.
9. Akasee.
10. Salamee.
11. Mutpharka.
12. Bhej.
13. Korouncha.
14. Bedeanee.
15. Neg.
16. Sekombatta.
17. Chunda.
18. Susmahee.
19. Moonsifee.
20. Burdana.
21. Keali.
22. Garreana.
23. Mahisunha.
24. Ghatwali.
25. Dundidari.
26. Golamundpoi.
27. Chuttiani.
28. Teh bagari.
29. Hatea or petia.
30. Jaidate or mokat.

No. 1, where it is levied as part payment of a patwari's salary may be realized, but the amount should be incorporated with the tenant's rent at the rate of six pies in a rupee.

Nos. 4 and 16, Bhatta and Sekombatta are only difference between the old Sicca rupee in which rent used to be paid and the Company's rupee; and though they should cease as abwabs, should be amalgamated with the rents where they exist.

No. 6, kurcha doorbund, may be collected in payment of repairs of bunds and irrigation works.

No. 10, may be accepted if voluntarily made on toujih days, being always credited to the funds of the estate.

No. 23, may be realized when no grazing rent for waste lands is charged.

No. 29, hatea or petia may be realized, unless Board's orders in special cases forbid it.

No. 30, may be realized if no ground rents are paid.

24. The following rules should be followed in the receipt of collections and preparation of accounts—

(1) All receipts of cash should be entered in the cash-book in the order of their occurrence.

(2) All transactions without exception, which involve receipt and issue of cash from the treasure-chest, must be entered in register 14 or 15 as the case may be, in the order of their occurrence.

(3) Every payment to the sub-Manager should be accompanied by a challan prepared by the payee himself. Such forms will be supplied by the Manager, and will be similar to those laid down by Accountant-General for use in sub-divisional treasure-chests.

(4) Every challan presented to the sub-Manager must, after care-full check, aad examination, be entered by the accountant in the body of his cash book, and be numbered and signed by him. The challan and cash book, will then be taken to the sub-Manager, who, after comparing them, will initial the entry and sign the challan. The money should then be paid in, and the challans surrendered. Details of the notes or coins paid in will be entered on the challan by a moharir, and the amount of the challan will then be entered in the cash-book.

(5) Cheques drawn by the Manager shall alone be cashed at a sub-Manager's treasure-chest.

(6) All cheques on payment must be stamped "paid", and scored throngh thus—X No money shall be received or paid until the challans or vouchers have been signed in full by the sub-Manager.

(7) At the close of business daily, the accountant should make up the registers 14 and 15.

(8) These books should then be taken to the sub-Manager, who should satisfy himself that every entry in them bears his initials that there are no erasures, and that every correction of a figure or word has been signed or initialled by him. He will also check the correctness of the opening and closing balances and totals, and initial them.

(9) No sub-Manager shall keep any money in his possession save in the treasure-chest, and after proper and full entry of the entire sum in his accounts.

(10) The sub-Manager shall satisfy himself daily that the cash in hands tallies with the amount of balance shown in the cash-book.

(11) Before a sub-Manager leaves his head quarters on duty he will, as directed in the Board's order of June 26th, 1876, despatch all money in the treasure-chest to the head treasury, and his collections will stop until his return to his head quarters. When sending in the collections of the week, the sub-Manager will also submit copies of register 14 and 15 for the week.

(12) Officers remitting money to a sadar treasury will take particular care that the same is enclosed in a box and properly sealed and screwed down. They should on no account send the money in open bags.

(13) On receipt of the weekly account of sub-Managers, their transactions will be incorporated at the Manager's treasury with the transactions of the day on which they are received and dealt with. In the month of March, however, all the accounts for that month must be included with the transactions for March of the Manager's treasury so that the annual accounts forwarded to the Deputy Commissioner's office may show all receipts and payments of the estates to the close of the month. The Manager's cash book, therefore, must not be finally closed for the last open day of March until all sub-Manager's returns for the month have been incorporated. When any accounts are received after the close of March, they should be included in the cash book and registers for March, and not for the day on which they are received the total amount of the receipts, and payments thus included being shown in separate items in the accountant's daily balance sheet, as shown below, in order to arrive at the correct cash balance of the estates for the day. The balance-sheets will continue to be written up and checked as usual at the end of each day.

Balance up to 187 ....

Receipts as per cash book of this day ....

Receipts as per sub-Manager's accounts for March 187—entered in the cash-book of that month ....

Disbursement as per cash book of this day......................

Disbursement as per sub-Manager's accounts of March 187—entered in the cash-book of that month ....

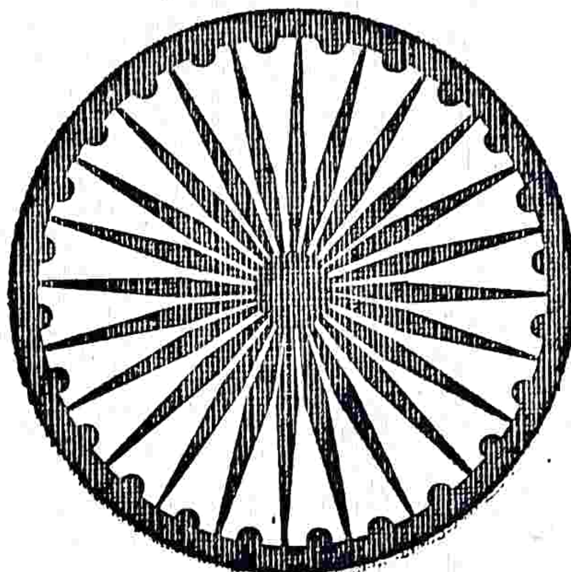
(14) Every item of receipt will be brought upon the Manager's cash-book register as it appears in the accounts.

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